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It happens in *controversial* discourses as it does in the assaulting of towns, where, if the ground be but firm whereon the batteries are erected, there is no farther enquiry of whom it is borrowed, nor whom it belongs to, so it affords but a fit rifle for the present purpose. *Locke*.

CONTRIVERSY. *n. f.* [from *controversia*, Latin.]
1. Dispute; debate; agitation of contrary opinions: a dispute is commonly oral, and a controversy in writing.

How cometh it to pass that we are so rent with mutual contentions, and that the church is so much troubled? If men had been willing to learn, all these *controversies* might have died the very day they were first brought forth. *Hooker, b. i.*

Without *controversy* great is the mystery of godliness. *1 Tim.*
Wild *controversy* then, which long had slept,
Into the press from ruin'd cloisters leapt. *Denham.*

This left no room for *controversy* about the title, nor for encroachment on the right of others. *Locke.*

2. A suit in law.
If there be a *controversy* between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them, then they shall justify the righteous and condemn the wicked. *Deutr. xxv. 1.*

3. A quarrel.
The Lord hath a *controversy* with the nations. *Jer. xxv. 31.*
Opposition; enmity: this is an unusual sense.
The torrent roar'd, and we did buffet it
With lullies; throwing it aside,
And stemming it with hearts of *controversy*. *Shak. Jul. Cas.*

TO CONTROVERT. *v. a.* [from *controverto*, Lat.] To debate; to ventilate in opposite books; to dispute any thing in writing.
If any person shall think fit to *controvert* them, he may do it very safely for me. *Cheyne's Phil. Princ.*

CONTRVERTIBLE. *adj.* [from *controvert*.] Disputable; that may be the cause of controversy.

Discouraging of matters dubious, and many *controvertible* truths, we cannot without arrogance intreat a credulity, or implore any farther assent than the probability of our reasons and verity of our experiments. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. i.*

CONTRVERTIST. *n. f.* [from *controvert*.] Disputant; a man versed or engaged in literary wars or disputations.

Who can think himself so considerable as not to dread this mighty man of demonstration, this prince of *controvertists*, this great lord and possessor of first principles. *Tillotson, Preface.*

CONTUMACIOUS. *adj.* [from *contumacia*, Latin.] Obdurate; perverse; stubborn; inflexible.

He is in law said to be a *contumacious* person, who, on his appearance afterwards, departs the court without leave. *Ayliffe.*

There is another very efficacious method for subduing of the most obstinate *contumacious* sinner, and bringing him into the obedience of the faith of Christ. *Hammond's Fundamental.*

CONTUMACIOUSLY. *adv.* [from *contumacious*.] Obstinately; stubbornly; inflexibly; perversely.

CONTUMACIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *contumacious*.] Obstinacy; perverseness; inflexibility; stubbornness.

From the description I have given of it, a judgment may be given of the difficulty and *contumaciousness* of cure. *Wiseman.*

CONTUMACY. *n. f.* [from *contumacia*, Latia.]
1. Obstinacy; perverseness; stubbornness; inflexibility.

Such acts
Of *contumacy* will provoke the Highest
To make death in us live. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. x.*

2. [In law.] A wilful contempt and disobedience to any lawful summons or judicial order. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

These certificates do only, in the generality, mention the party's *contumacies* and disobedience. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

CONTUMELIOUS. *adj.* [from *contumelia*, Latin.]
1. Reproachful; rude; sarcastic; contemptuous.

With scoffs and taunts, and *contumelious* taunts,
In open market-place produc'd they me
To be a public spectacle. *Shakespeare's Henry VI. p. i.*

In all the quarrels and tumults at Rome, though the people frequently proceeded to rude *contumelious* languages, yet no blood was ever drawn in any popular commotions, 'till the time of the Gracchi. *Swift on the Dissent, in Athens and Rome.*

2. Inclined to utter reproach; brutal; rude.
There is yet another sort of *contumelious* persons, who, indeed, are not chargeable with that circumstance of ill employing their wit; for they use none in it. *Guerin, of the Tongue.*

Giving our holy virgins to the stain
Of *contumelious*, beauly, madbrain'd war. *Shakespeare's Timon.*

3. Productive of reproach; shameful; ignominious.
As it is in the highest degree injurious to them, so is it *contumelious* to him.

CONTUMELIOUSLY. *adv.* [from *contumelious*.] Reproachfully; contemptuously; rudely.
The people are not wont to take so great offence, when they are excluded from honours and offices, as when their persons are *contumeliously* trodden upon. *Hooker, b. i. sect. 10.*

Fire, lords; that you, being supreme magistrates,
Thus *contumeliously* should break the peace. *Shakespeare's Hen. VI.*

CONTUMELIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *contumelious*.] Rudeness; reproach.

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CONTUMELY. *n. f.* [from *contumelia*, Latin.] Rudeness; contemptuousness; bitterness of language; reproach.

If the helm of chief government be in the hands of a few of the wealthiest, then laws, providing for continuance thereof, must make the punishment of *contumely* and wrong, offered unto any of the common sort, sharp and grievous, that so the evil may be prevented. *Hooker, b. i. sect. 10.*

Th' oppressor's love, the proud man's *contumely*,
The pang of despis'd love, the law's delay. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*

It was undervalued and depressed with some bitterness and *contumely*. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

Why should any man be troubled at the *contumelies* of those whose judgment deserves not to be valued? *Tillotson.*

External *contumely* attend that guilty title which claims exemption from thought, and arrogates to its wearers the prerogative of brutes. *Addison's Guardian, N^o. 123.*

TO CONTUSE. *v. a.* [from *contusus*, Latin.]
1. To beat together; to bruise.

Of their roots, barks, and seeds, *contused* together, and mingled with other earth, and well watered with warm water, there came forth herbs much like the other. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

2. To bruise the flesh without a breach of the continuity.
The ligature *contuses* the lips in cutting them, so that they require to be digested before they can unite. *Wiseman's Surgery.*

CONTUSION. *n. f.* [from *contusio*.]
1. The act of beating or bruising.

2. The state of being beaten or bruised.
Take a piece of glass, and reduce it to powder, it acquiring by *contusion* a multitude of minute surfaces, from a diaphanous, degenerates into a white body. *Boyle on Colours.*

3. A bruise; a compression of the fibres, distinguished from a wound.
That winter lion, who in rage forgets
Aged *contusions*, and all bruise of time. *Shakespeare's Henry VI.*

The bones, in sharp colds, wax brittle; and all *contusions*, in hard weather, are more difficult to cure. *Bacon's Nat. History.*

CONVAL LILY. See LILY OF THE VALLEY.

CONVALESCENCE. *n. f.* [from *convalesco*, Latin.] Renewal
CONVALESCENCY. *n. f.* [from *convalesco*.] Recovery from a disease.

Being in a place out of the reach of any alarm, the recovered her spirits to a reasonable *convalescence*. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

CONVALESCENT. *adj.* [from *convalesco*, Latin.] Recovering; returning to a state of health.

CONVENABLE. *adj.* [from *conveniens*, French.]
1. Consistent with; agreeable to; accordant to. Not now in use.

He is so meek, wife, and merciable,
And with his word his work is *convenable*. *Spenser's Faif.*

2. That may be convened.
TO CONVENE. *v. n.* [from *convenio*, Latin.] To come together; to assemble; to associate; to unite.

The fire separates the aqueous parts from the others where-with they were blended in the concrete, and brings them into the receiver, where they *convene* into a liquor. *Boyle.*

There are settled periods of their *convening*, or a liberty left to the prince for convoking the legislature. *Locke.*

In short-sighted men, whose eyes are too plump, the refraction being too great, the rays converge and *convene* in the eyes, before they come at the bottom. *Newton's Opt.*

TO CONVENE. *v. a.*
1. To call together; to assemble; to convoke.

No man was better pleased with the *convening* of this parliament than myself. *King Charles.*

All the factious and schismatical people would frequently, as well in the night as the day, *convene* themselves by the found of a bell. *Clarendon.*

And now th' almighty father of the gods
Convenes a council in the blest abodes. *Pope's Satire.*

2. To summon judicially.
By the papal canon law, clerks, in criminal and civil causes, cannot be *convened* before any but an ecclesiastical judge. *Ayliffe.*

CONVENIENCE. *n. f.* [from *convenientia*, Latin.]
CONVENIENCY. *n. f.* [from *convenientia*.]

1. Fitness; propriety.
In things not commanded of God, yet lawful, because permitted, the question is, what light shall shew us the *conveniency* which one hath above another. *Hooker, b. ii. f. 4.*

2. Commodiousness; ease; freedom from difficulties.
A man putting all his pleasures into one, is like a traveller's putting all his goods into one jewel: the value is the same, and the *convenience* greater. *South's Sermons.*

Every man must want something for the *convenience* of his life, for which he must be obliged to others. *Calamy's Sermon.*

There is another *convenience* in this method, during your waiting. *Swift's Directions to the Postman.*

3. Cause of ease; accommodation.
If it have not such a *convenience*, voyages must be very uncomfortable. *Wilkins's Math. Magic.*

A man alters his mind as the work proceeds, and will have this or that *convenience* more, of which he had not thought when he began. *Dryden's Fables, Preface.*

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There was a pair of spectacles, a pocket perspective, and several other little *conveniencies*, I did not think myself bound in honour to discover. *Gulliver's Travels.*

3. Fitness of time or place.
Use no farther means;
But with all brief and plain *conveniency*,
Let me have judgment. *Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.*

CONVENIENT. *adj.* [from *conveniens*, Latin.]
1. Fit; suitable; proper; well adapted; commodious.

The least and most trivial episodes, or under actions, are either necessary or *convenient*; either so necessary that without them the poem must be imperfect, or so *convenient* that no others can be imagined more suitable to the place in which they are. *Dryden's Dedication to the Æneid.*

Health itself is but a kind of temper, gotten and preclerred by a *convenient* mixture of contraries. *Arbuth. on Aliments.*

2. It has either to or for before the following noun; perhaps it ought generally to have for before persons, and to before things.

Give me neither poverty nor riches, feed me with food *convenient* for me. *Prov. xxx. 8.*

There are some arts that are peculiarly *convenient* to some particular nations. *Tillotson.*

CONVENIENTLY. *adv.* [from *convenient*.]
1. Commodiously; without difficulty.

I this morning know
Where we shall find him most *conveniently*. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*

2. Fitly; with proper adaptation of part to part, or of the whole to the effect proposed.

It would be worth the experiment to inquire, whether or no a sailing chariot might be more *conveniently* framed with moveable sails, whose force may be impelled from their motion, equivalent to those in a wind-mill. *Wilkins's Mat. Mag.*

CONVENT. *n. f.* [from *conventus*, Latin.]
1. An assembly of religious persons; a body of monks or nuns.

He came to Leicester
Lodg'd in the abbey, where the reverend abbot,
With all his *convent*, honourably receiv'd him. *Sh. H. VIII.*

2. A religious house; an abbey; a monastery; a nunnery.
One seldom finds in Italy a spot of ground more agreeable than ordinary, that is not covered with a *convent*. *Addison.*

TO CONVENT. *v. a.* [from *convento*, Latin.] To call before a judge or judicature.

He with his oath
By all probation will make up full clear,
Whenever he's *convented*. *Shakespeare's Measure for Measure.*

They sent forth their precepts to attach men, and *convent* them before themselves at private houses. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

CONVENTICLE. *n. f.* [from *conventiculum*, Latin.]
1. An assembly; a meeting.

They are commanded to abstain from all *conventicles* of men whatsoever; even out of the church, to have nothing to do with publick business. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

2. An assembly for worship. Generally used in an ill sense, including hereby or schism.

It behoveth, that the place where God shall be served by the whole church be a publick place; for the avoiding of privy *conventicles*, which, covered with pretence of religion, may serve unto dangerous practices. *Hooker, b. v. sect. 12.*

A sort of men, who are content to be filled of the church of England, who perhaps attend its service in the morning, and go with their wives to a *conventicle* in the afternoon. *Swift.*

3. A secret assembly; an assembly where conspiracies are formed.
Ay, all of you have laid your heads together,
(Myself had notice of your *conventicles*)
And all to make away my guiltless life. *Shakespeare's Henry VI.*

CONVENTICLER. *n. f.* [from *conventicle*.] One that supports or frequents private and unlawful assemblies.

Another crop is too like to follow; nay, I fear, it is unavoidable, if the *conventiclers* be permitted still to scatter. *Dryden.*

CONVENTION. *n. f.* [from *conventus*, Latin.]
1. The act of coming together; union; coalition; junction.

They are to be reckoned amongst the most general affections of the *conventions*, or associations of several particles of matter into bodies of any certain denomination. *Boyle.*

2. An assembly.
Publick *conventions* are liable to all the infirmities, follies, and vices of private men. *Swift.*

3. A contract; an agreement for a time, previous to a definitive treaty.

CONVENTIONAL. *adj.* [from *convention*.] Stipulated; agreed on by compact.

Conventional services reserved by tenures upon grants, made out of the crown or knights service. *Hale's Com. Law of Engl.*

CONVENTIONARY. *adj.* [from *convention*.] Acting upon contract; settled by stipulations.

The ordinary covenants of most *conventionary* tenants are, to pay due capon and due harvest journeys. *Carew's Survey.*

CONVENTUAL. *adj.* [from *conventus*, French.] Belonging to a convent; monastic.

Those are called *conventual* priors that have the chief ruling power over a monastery. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

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CONVENTUAL. *n. f.* [from *conventus*.] A monk; a nun; one that lives in a convent.

I have read a sermon of a *conventual*, who laid it down, that Adam could not laugh before the fall. *Addison's Spectator.*

TO CONVERGE. *v. n.* [from *convergo*, Latin.] To tend to one point from different places.

Where the rays from all the points of any object meet again, after they have been made to *converge* by reflexion or refraction, there they will make a picture of the object upon a white body. *Newton's Opt.*

CONVERGENT. *adj.* [from *convergo*.] Tending to one point from different places.

CONVERGENCE. *n. f.* [from *convergo*.] It is sometimes written *converfible*, but improperly; *converfiant*, *converfation*, *converfable*. Qualified for conversation; fit for company; well adapted to the reciprocal communication of thoughts; communicative.

That fire and levity which makes the young ones scarce *converfible*, when tempered by years, makes a gay old age. *Guardian, N^o. 101.*

CONVERFABLENESS. *n. f.* [from *converfable*.] The quality of being a pleasing companion; fluency of talk.

CONVERFABLY. *adv.* [from *converfable*.] In a converfable manner; with the qualities of a pleasing communicative companion.

CONVERFANT. *adj.* [from *converfiant*, French.]
1. Acquainted with; having a knowledge of any thing acquired by familiarity and habitude; familiar: with in.

The learning and skill which he had by being *converfiant* in their books. *Hooker, b. iii. sect. 8.*

Let them make some towns near to the mountain's side, where they may dwell together with neighbours, and be *converfiant* in the view of the world. *Spenser's State of Ireland.*

Those who are *converfiant* in both the tongues, I leave to make their own judgment of it. *Dryden's Dufresnoy.*

He uses the different dialects as one who had been *converfiant* with them all. *Pope's Essay on Homer.*

2. Having intercourse with any; acquainted; familiar by cohabitation or fellowship; cohabiting: with among or with.

All that Moses commanded, Joshua read before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were *converfiant* among them. *Jos. viii. 35.*

Never to be infected with delight,
Nor *converfiant* with ease and idleness. *Shakespeare's King John.*

Old men who have loved young company, and been *converfiant* continually with them, have been of long life. *Bacon.*

Gabriel, this day by proof thou shalt behold,
Thou, and all angels *converfiant* on earth
With man, or men's affairs, how I begin
To verify that solemn message. *Milton's Parad. Regained.*

To such a one, an ordinary coffeehouse-gleaner of the city is an ardent statesman, and as much superiour too, as a man *converfiant* about Whitehall and the court is to an ordinary shopkeeper. *Locke.*

3. Relating to; having for its object; concerning: with about, formerly in.

The matters *wherein* church polity is *converfiant*, are the publick religious duties of the church. *Hooker, b. iii.*

If any think education, because it is *converfiant* about children, to be but a private and domestick duty, he has been ignorantly bred himself. *Watson on Education.*

Discretion, considered both as an accomplishment and as a virtue, not only as is *converfiant* about worldly affairs, but as regarding our whole existence. *Addison's Spectator, N^o. 276.*

Indifference cannot but be criminal, when it is *converfiant* about objects which are so far from being of an indifferent nature, that they are of the highest importance to ourselves and our country. *Addison's Freeholder, N^o. 13.*

CONVERSATION. *n. f.* [from *conversatio*, Latin.]
1. Familiar discourse; chat; easy talk: opposed to a formal conference.

She went to Pamela's chamber, meaning to joy her thoughts with the sweet *conversation* of her sister. *Sidney, b. ii.*

What I mentioned some time ago in *conversation*, was not a new thought, just then started by accident or occasion. *Swift.*

2. A particular act of discoursing upon any subject; as, we had a long *conversation* on that question.

3. Commerce; intercourse; familiarity.
The knowledge of men and manners, the freedom of habits, and *conversation* with the best company of both sexes. *Dryden.*

His apparent, open guilt;
I mean his *conversation* with Shore's wife. *Shakespeare's Rich. III.*

4. Behaviour; manner of acting in common life.
Having your *conversation* honest among the Gentiles. *1 Pet.*

CONVERSATIVE. *adj.* [from *conversare*.] Relating to publick life, and commerce with men; not contemplative.

Finding him little studious and contemplative, she chose to endue him with *conversative* qualities of youth. *Watson.*

To